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Statistical Brief

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HEALTH AND THE PRE-ELDERLY IN NORTH CAROLINA – Survey Estimates by Race

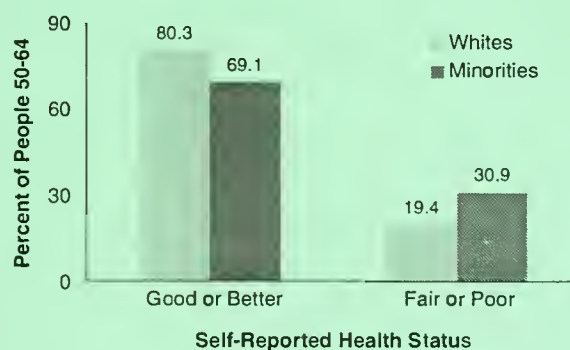
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In this Brief, we examine telephone survey data for the household population 50-64 years old (pre-elders). This is because the significant “baby boom” generation has just begun to pass age 50 and the state’s health community needs to be prepared for this large population group who will reach age 65 between the years 2010 and 2030. Also, ages 50 and older are the focus of a number of health promotion/disease prevention initiatives to improve the quality of life for older adults. A separate Brief¹ examines survey data for the state’s household population 65 years of age and older (elders).

The data of this Brief are from the North Carolina Health Profile (NCHP) telephone survey conducted during the Fall of 1995. The NCHP was funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Readers should be aware that all statistics are subject to the usual limitations of telephone sampling and classification errors by respondents.

Data presented here are for the state’s non-institutionalized population 50-64 years of age. The results are directly comparable to those reported for the population 65 and older.¹ The total sample size for ages 50-64 is 514.

Figure 1
More minorities than whites report their health as fair or poor



Health Status

- Asked to rate their health on a 5-point scale of poor to excellent, more minorities than whites said “fair” or “poor” (Figure 1). Twelve percent of minorities, compared to seven percent of whites, said “poor.”
- Nineteen percent of minorities and 18 percent of whites said it was difficult to do certain activities such as work or housework because of their health.
- Minorities (16%) were more likely than whites (12%) to report a major health problem during the past year.
- Among those reporting a major problem or that of a related household member, financial hardship resulting from the problem(s) was reported by 82 percent of minorities versus 43 percent of whites.

